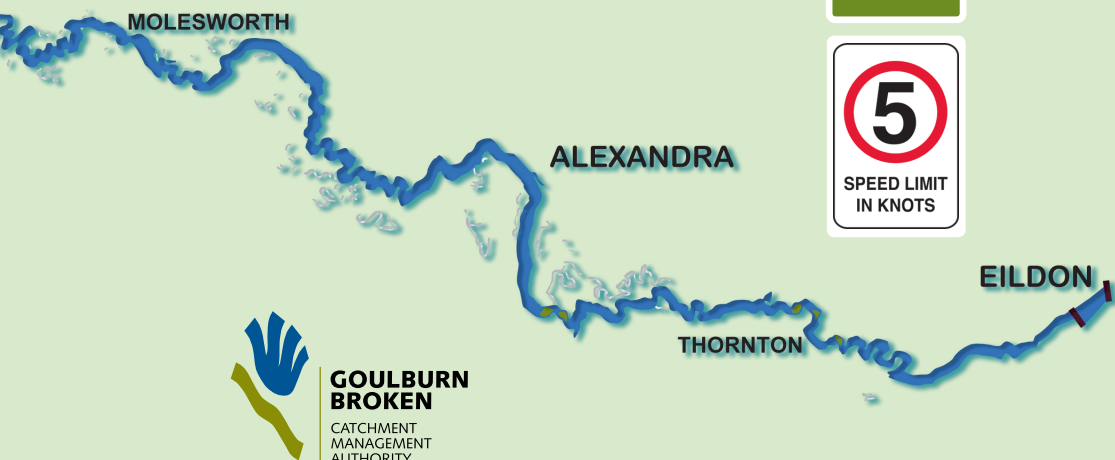


GOULBURN RIVER BOATING GUIDE

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority has prepared the “Goulburn River Boating Guide” to help boaters safely enjoy this recreation venue. Funding to assist with the production of this guide has been made available by the State Government through a grant from the Boating Safety and Facilities Program administered by Marine Safety Victoria.



**GOULBURN
BROKEN**
CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY

THE WATERWAY

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority is the waterway manager appointed under the Marine Act 1988 for the Goulburn River between the Lake Eildon Pondage and Hughes Creek, excluding creeks and streams flowing into the river and storages. This represents a distance of approximately 165 km, much of it isolated.

THE BOATING GUIDE

Boat operators should recognise that water flow and depths vary during the year, often at very short notice. They should exercise care to ensure that they are operating in a safe fashion appropriate to their location and not adversely impacting on other water users and the environment. The guide is intended to provide information to raise the level of boating safety awareness before people venture onto the river to enjoy the boating experience.

The Goulburn River offers a diverse boating and recreational activity environment that attracts people to enjoy fishing, canoeing/kayaking and rafting. The major source of water is Lake Eildon and these waters are used for irrigation in northern Victoria, with the balance flowing into the Murray River. The varying demand for irrigation is one of the reasons for periodic changes to the river that may impact on boating.

The Statewide operating rules made under the provisions of the Marine Act 1988 apply to the whole of the Goulburn River between the Eildon Pondage and Hughes Creek (downstream from Seymour).

All operators of powered and un-powered boats must understand the commonsense boating safety rules before venturing onto the Goulburn River and in particular be aware of the specific boating conditions along the river.



SAFE BOATING

The Goulburn River waterway environment offers a range of boating opportunities. However, it is important that boat operators recognise some of the operational limitations that may influence boating safety, including:

Water flow and depth could change unexpectedly.

Overhanging trees often can limit navigation – particularly willow trees

Shallow water and sub-surface obstructions are common along the whole water course so a good lookout must be kept

Other boats could be encountered when turning bends in the river – particularly canoeing and rafting groups.

Much of the river is isolated and away from towns and roads so boaters should always tell someone where they intend to go boating and when they expect to return.

SPEED LIMITS

There is a 5 knot speed limit on all the waters of the Goulburn River between Lake Eildon Pondage and Hughes Creek

Boat operators should not operate on these waters unless they are totally familiar with the waterway and the likely operating conditions to be encountered. First time visitors should ensure that they are accompanied by boaters who know the waterway.



SAFETY EQUIPMENT

This table outlines the recommended safety equipment to be carried or worn in boats likely to use these waters:

SAFETY EQUIPMENT	UNPOWERED BOATS (inc rowing boats, canoes & kayaks)	POWER BOATS 4.8m and under	POWER BOATS OVER 4.8m	PWC
Personal Flotation Device (PFD) Type 1, 2 or 3 for each person on board or being towed	Wear when underway	Wear when underway	Wear when underway	Wear when underway
Two paddles or two oars fitted with rowlocks	✓	✓	✗	✗
Bucket with lanyard	✗	✓	✓	✗
Bailer, pump or other efficient bilge pumping arrangement	✓	✓	✓	✗
Approved fire extinguisher where any fuel is carried	✗	✓	✓	✗
Waterproof and buoyant torch	✗	✓	✓	✓

Refer to page 4 for Notes on Personal flotation devices (pfd's)

SAFETY EQUIPMENT CONTINUED

Notes on Personal flotation devices (pfd's)

All pfd's must be approved in accordance with the Marine Act 1988.

All persons in a boat 4.8m or under are required to wear a PFD whenever the boat is underway - "Underway" means not at anchor, made fast to the shore, or aground. If drifting you are under way. Vessels travelling at any speed are at risk of being involved in an incident where the occupants suddenly and unexpectedly enter the water. Marine Safety Victoria data shows that nationally, 17% of fatalities occurred whilst the vessel was drifting or at slow speed.

All persons operating a boat alone must wear a pfd.

All children under the age of 10 years must wear a PFD at all times.

- ALSO CARRY** >> EPIRB - while not required on these waters, consideration should be given to carrying an emergency beacon.
- >> Emergency sheet – to make you more visible.
- >> First aid kit - to treat minor injuries.

0.05 ALCOHOL LIMITS

All boat operators must observe the 0.05 blood alcohol limits and operators under 21 years of age must observe a zero blood alcohol limit. Severe penalties apply for exceeding the limit.



HYPOTHERMIA



The waters of the Goulburn River can be very cold and the possibility of hypothermia should be considered by everyone.

The consumption of alcohol, attempting to swim or movement in the water will cause the body to expend heat very rapidly, which will hasten the onset of hypothermia. The 'H.E.L.P' (*Heat Escape Lessening Posture*) position pictured combats hypothermia and can be a lifesaver to people in cold water.






KEY POINTS FOR TREATMENT

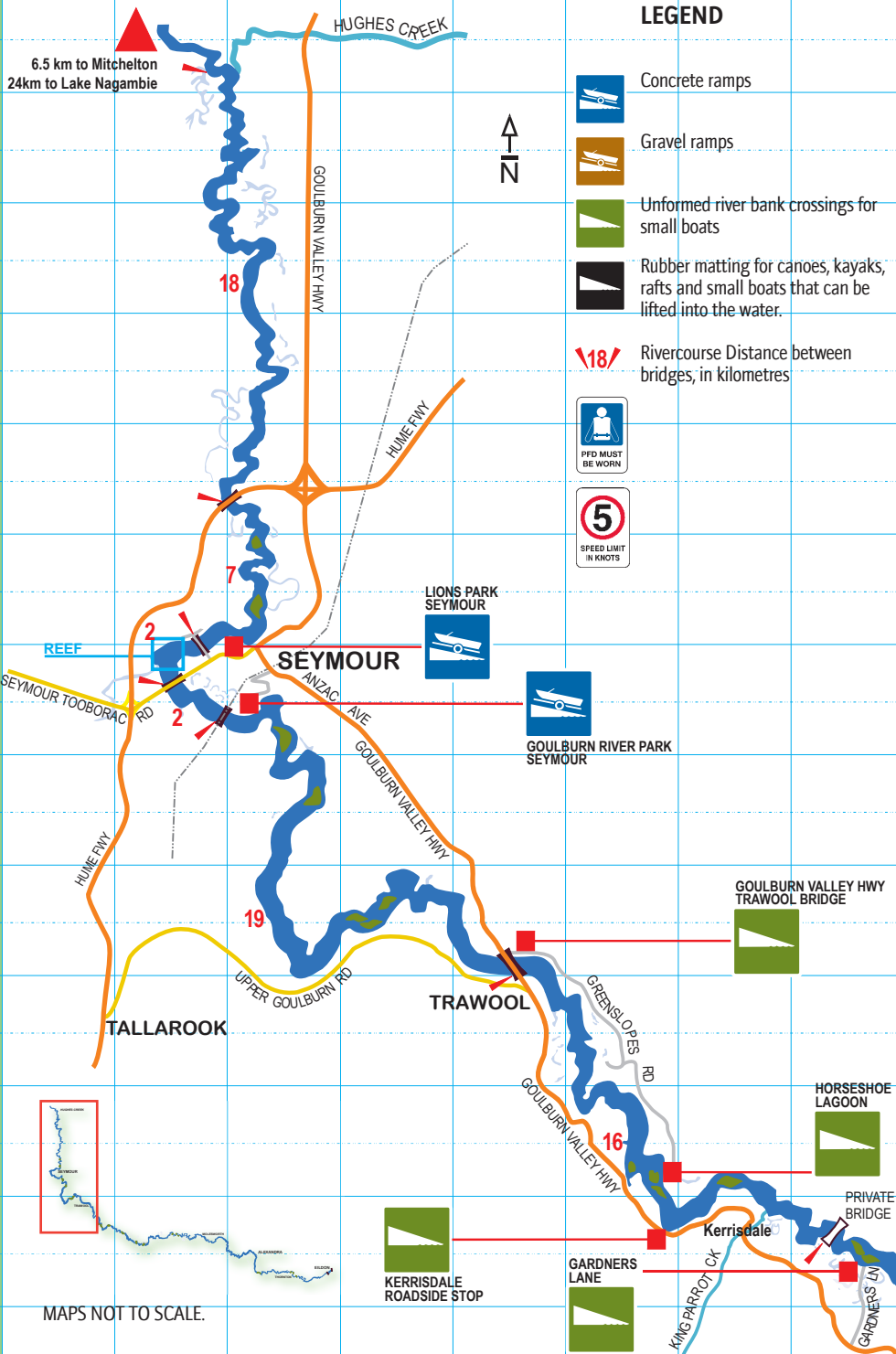
- 1.... Remove the casualty from the water/cold immediately.
- 2.... Protect casualty from further cold, especially wind. Carefully get the casualty into warm dry clothing, blanket/sleeping bag.
- 3.... Gradually warm the areas of high heat loss, that is, head and neck, sides of chest, armpits and groin using heat packs or warm water bottles. Do not rub, or massage, or warm limbs.
- 4.... Observe the casualty closely for deterioration in condition.
- 5.... Manage unconscious victim by placing in the lateral position, making sure airway is clear and performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation if necessary. Continue warming procedures.
- 6.... If casualty is conscious and able to swallow, warm sweet drinks may be given. Do not give alcohol or cold liquids.
- 7.... Keep the casualty at complete rest.
- 8.... Seek urgent medical aid.

(Drawn from Victorian Recreational Boating Safety Handbook published by Marine Safety Victoria)

A B C D E F G H

LEGEND

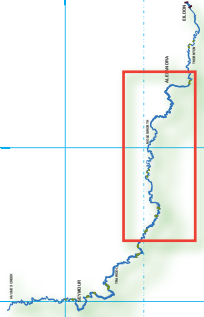
-  Concrete ramps
-  Gravel ramps
-  Unformed river bank crossings for small boats
-  Rubber matting for canoes, kayaks, rafts and small boats that can be lifted into the water.
-  Rivercourse Distance between bridges, in kilometres



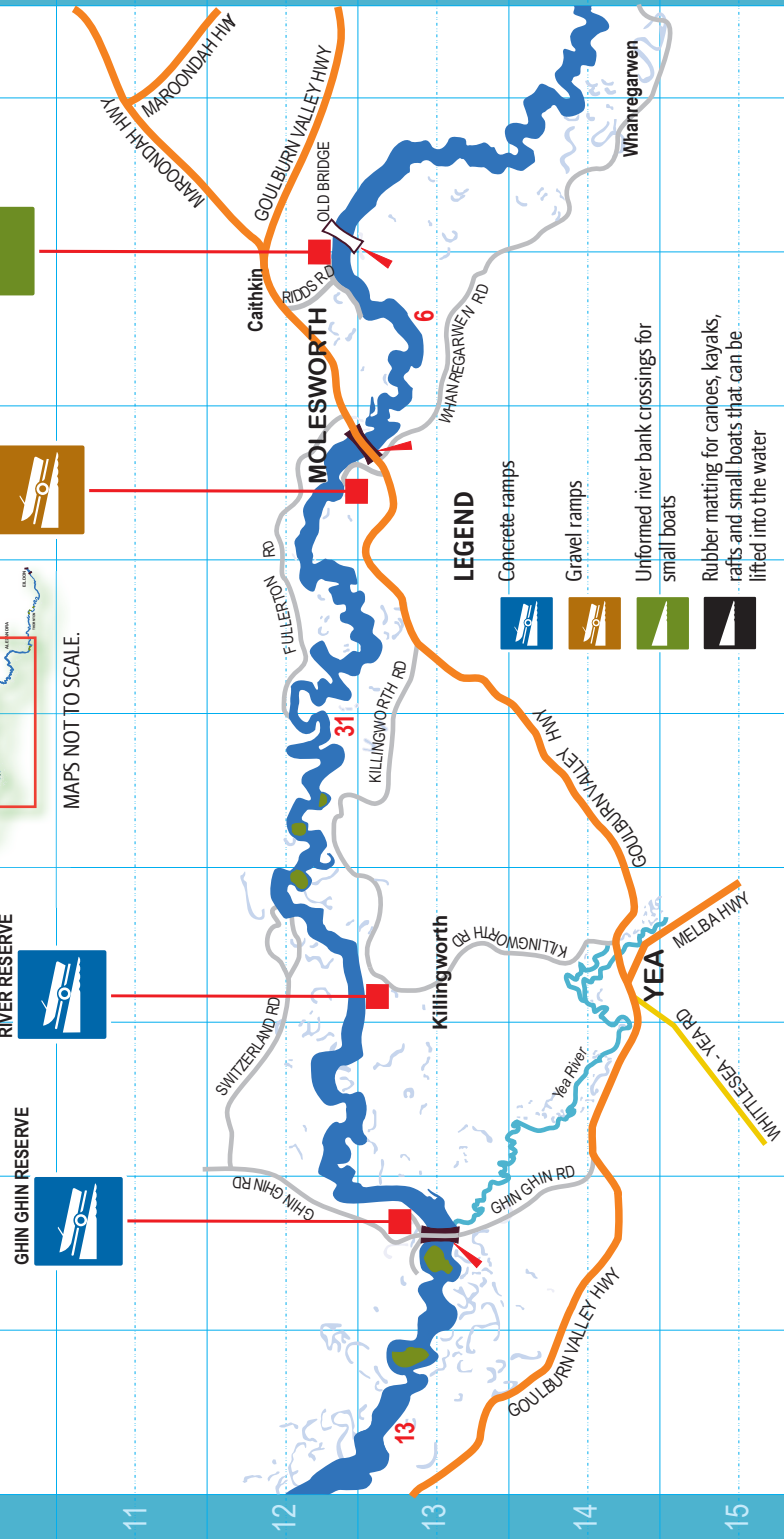
MAPS NOT TO SCALE.

5

A B C D E F G H



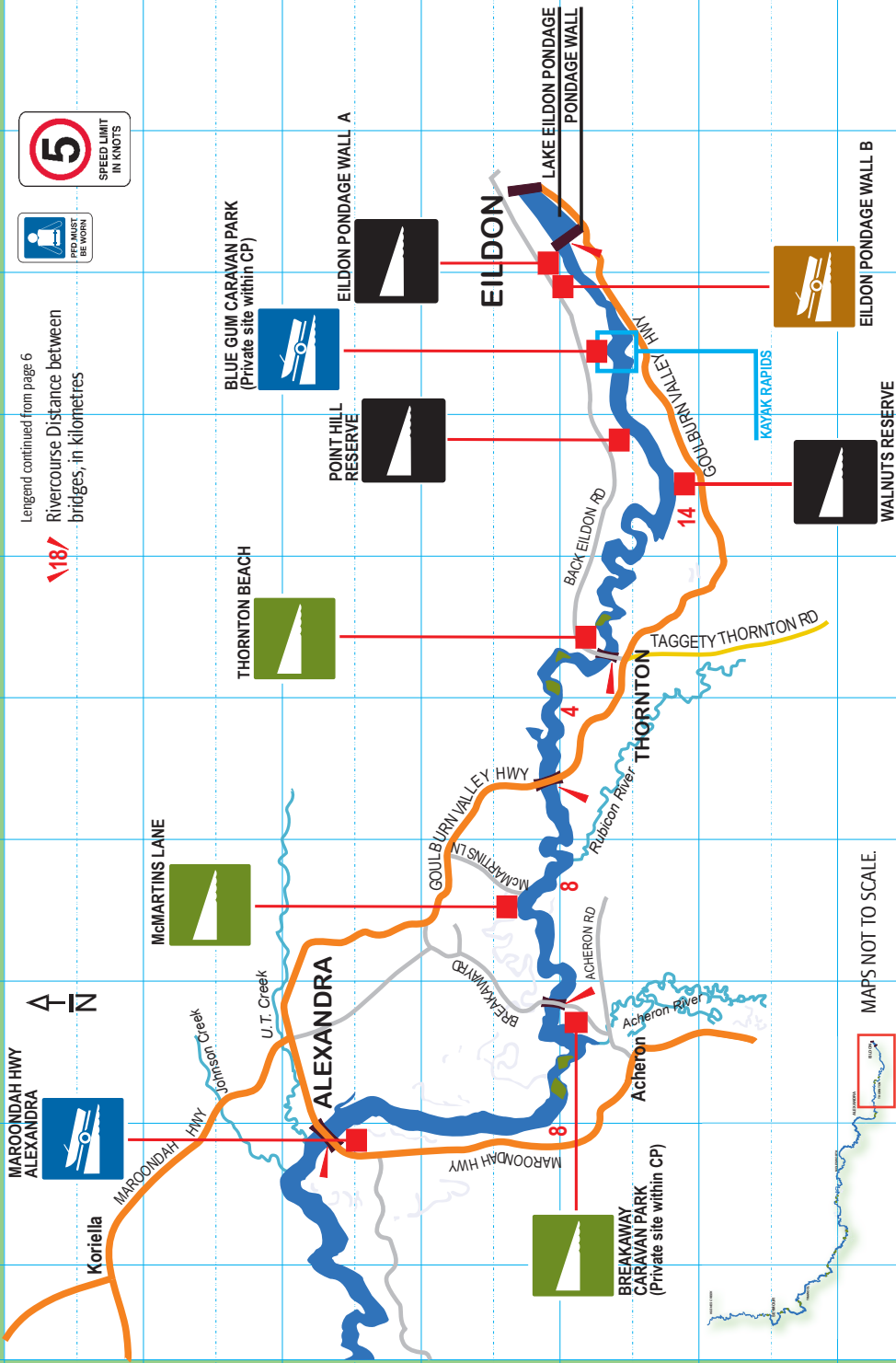
MAPS NOT TO SCALE.



LEGEND

- Concrete ramps
- Gravel ramps
- Uniformed river bank crossings for small boats
- Rubber matting for canoes, kayaks, rafts and small boats that can be lifted into the water

Legend continued on page 7



5
SPEED LIMIT
IN KNOTS

PFD MUST
BE WORN

Legend continued from page 6
18/ Rivercourse Distance between
bridges, in kilometres

North Arrow

MAPS NOT TO SCALE.



WATERWAY ACCESS

There are approximately 165 kms of river available for various types of boating activities and there are public access points along the river available for different types of boats.



Concrete ramps



Gravel ramps

Suitable for all types of trailerable small boats



Unformed river bank crossings for small boats



Rubber matting for canoes, kayaks, rafts and small boats that can be lifted into the water – these ramps should not be used to launch boats from trailers

POSSIBLE HAZARDS

The very nature of the Goulburn River means there are objects, both natural and man-made, that may affect how and where boating can be safely undertaken. The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority maintains an on-going program to remove unacceptable boating hazards, particularly willow trees over hanging the river on bends.

Hazards likely to be encountered include –

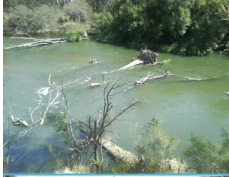


Willow trees are very common and often overhang the river, restricting boat movement and could potentially entangle boats or persons.



Fast flowing and turbulent water can be encountered at any time.

POSSIBLE HAZARDS CONTINUED



Above water snags creates barriers across all or part of the river.



Man made objects can restrict boat movement, including rocks placed in river for white water activity and fish habitat, pumps, water outfalls, jetties and bridges.



Closure for special events - major canoeing and kayaking events are held on the river adjacent to the Blue Gums Caravan Park. Special rules may be introduced during events if it is necessary to keep other users away. Arrangements will be in place to ensure that other users are given supervised passage through the area. Any temporary changes are advertised and signs erected.



Be prepared - boaters should also be prepared to encounter other boats, particularly large recreation rafting and canoeing groups.

Below water snags such as tree stumps or rocks are common and must be expected.

Sharp river bends restrict sight distance and mean that other boats and people may be encountered unexpectedly. Bends can alter river flow direction and speed.

Shallow water may restrict movement, often requiring boats to be dragged over the river bed – suitable footwear should be carried.



BOATING ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM

Respect private property

Much of the land adjacent to the waterway is private property or leased Crown Land and the permission of the land owner should be obtained before entering private property.

Protect the environment

The waters and adjacent land are part of a sensitive environment and boaters should undertake their recreation activity in such a way as to help protect and maintain this resource.

Keep your rubbish on board and dispose of it when you return to shore.

Do not pollute the water or the adjacent land – and take special care not to spill any fuel – pollution is not only illegal, it destroys the environment that makes this waterway so popular.

Tourism

Boating is a valued recreation activity attracting visitors from within Victoria, interstate and overseas. The river has become recognized for its passive recreation opportunities including fishing, canoeing/kayaking and rafting. There are a growing number of organised groups using the river to explore this riverine environment. Regional tourist information offices can direct people to tour operators, caravan parks and motels.

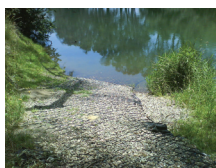




Concrete ramp - Lions Park Seymour



Gravel ramp - Molesworth Reserve



Rubber matting - Walnuts Reserve



Unformed river bank crossing - McMartins Lane

BOAT REGISTRATION AND OPERATOR LICENSING

Boat Registration

All boats equipped with a motor capable of being used for propulsion are required to be registered with Marine Safety Victoria through its agent VicRoads.

Operator Licensing

All recreational power boat operators are required to hold an operator's licence issued by Marine Safety Victoria through its agent VicRoads.

Licensing requirements –

Under 12 years	Not permitted to operate a power boat
12 to less than 16 years	Restricted Power Boat Operator Licence - Subject to speed limits, operating hours and supervision requirements
16 years and over	General Power Boat Operator Licence

FOR GENERAL WATERWAY ENQUIRES CONTACT

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (boating rules & activity) -
Yea Office (03) 5736 0100

Related internet sites

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA)

www.gbcma.vic.gov.au

Marine Safety Victoria

www.marinesafety.vic.gov.au

Goulburn Murray Water

www.g-mwater.com.au

VicRoads

www.vicroads.vic.gov.au

Weather Bureau

www.bom.gov.au

A stylized map of Hughes Creek, showing its winding path from the top left towards the bottom right. The creek is depicted in shades of blue and green, with some yellow and orange markers along its banks. The names 'SEYMOUR' and 'TRAWOOL' are placed near the creek's path.

HUGHES CREEK

IMPORTANT WATERWAY ADVICE

Observe the 5 knot speed limit

Always wear a PFD

Keep a good lookout for hazards and operate cautiously

Keep clear of willow trees and other vegetation overhanging the water

Be wary of shallow water

Cold water could result in hypothermia

Properly maintain your boat, engine and safety equipment

Don't overload your boat and take your gear into account

Fully charge your batteries

Ensure you have sufficient fuel

Inform a person of your trip intentions

Check the weather report

Carry a suitable mobile phone

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

If an incident does occur, boat operators should render all possible assistance and if required contact the relevant emergency service.

GENERAL (POLICE / FIRE / AMBULANCE) 000